

PROCESS TO SEPARATE COLOUR BODIES AND/OR ASPHALTHENIC
CONTAMINANTS FROM A HYDROCARBON MIXTURE

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Process for separating colour bodies and/or
asphalthenic contaminants from a hydrocarbon mixture
using a membrane having a feed side and a permeate
side, by contacting the hydrocarbon mixture with the
10 feed side of the membrane, wherein between the feed
and permeate sides of the membrane a pressure
difference is applied, thereby passing part of the
hydrocarbon mixture from the feed side to the
permeate side and obtaining at the permeate side of
15 the membrane a hydrocarbon permeate having a reduced
content of colour bodies and/or asphalthenic
contaminants, and by removing the hydrocarbon
permeate from the permeate side of the membrane,
wherein during selected time intervals the removal of
20 hydrocarbon permeate from the permeate side of the
membrane is stopped so that the pressure difference
over the membrane is temporarily substantially
lowered.